

# TOWER NOTES

**Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)**

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The Rev. Estelle Margarones, Interim Pastor, RevEstelle@centre-church.org

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

Barbara Langill, Interim Director of Faith Formation

Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

*We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church*

**February 17, 2016**

Years ago, there was a popular broadcast professional named Paul Harvey. He was famous for telling stories about popular people or events. He'd tell a bit of a story, break for a commercial, and then come back to tell "the rest of the story". Interestingly, the tidbit that you were left with was usually something astounding. It often made you re-think what you thought you knew.

I imagine that if he could have time traveled, he would have loved to tell the story of the Resurrection. Can you just about hear his booming voice, over an AM radio, saying... "And so it was that three days later, the man named Jesus that Roman authorities thought was dead was actually alive and seen by several witnesses. Jesus lives! And now, you know the rest of the story!"

I invite you to remember that, as Christians, we do know the rest of the story. Easter follows Lent. Jesus lives and reigns! Sadly, Lent doesn't garner the same excitement as Advent. We're not baking, decorating, and humming songs about Christ. Instead, many feel that this has to be a time of sacrifice. People of God, though we will walk through an emotionally challenging time during Holy Week, the rest of Lent need not be a somber time--especially since we know the rest of the story!

Lent invites us to draw closer to Christ. In doing so, we are gently given the opportunity to reevaluate our relationship with the Divine and we're allowed to

reflect upon how closely we walk in His way.

You may choose to "give something up" for Lent, if you feel it will help you draw closer to God. At the very least, when you don't have a candy bar or glass of wine, you'll think about God. You may tell others about your sacrifice. (If you do give something up, why not make an even greater impact, by taking the money you would have spent on the treat and donating it to a worthy cause?)

Another way to 'give something up' is to consider the United Church of Christ's commitment to "extravagant welcome" and to give up attitudes that may separate you from others. You could give up indifference, give up privilege, give up negativity, give up busyness, give up destructive speech, etc.... (You get the idea!)

You can also choose to 'take something on' for Lent such as volunteering or a spiritual practice like prayer, reading the Bible, meditation, journaling, or listening to praise music.

I encourage you to see the gift inherent in the Lenten season: an opportunity to draw closer to Jesus and to spend some time honestly considering that relationship. Blessings to you as we walk in the way of the Lord, together.

-Rev. Estelle



*(Reverend Estelle Margarones graces our pulpit on Feb14th)*

### **In The Sanctuary**

February 21, 2016

*Second Sunday in Lent*

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Estelle Margarones

Nursery open (children age 3 and under)

Children Age 4 – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade bake muffins for Heifer

Breakfast Club – Grades 5-12

February 28, 2016

*Third Sunday in Lent*

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Estelle Margarones

Nursery open (children age 3 and under)

Godly Play – Age 4 – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Breakfast Club – Grades 5-12

March 6, 2016

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

Nursery open (children 5 and under)

### **Muffins for Heifer International**

Each year the children and youth of the church bake muffins to offer after worship to raise money for Heifer International.

On February 21, the Godly Play group will bake and sell the muffins

On February 28, the Breakfast Club will do the baking and selling.

*Your generous donations  
are greatly appreciated!*

### **Thank You!**

#### Souper Bowl of Caring

The youth collected \$130.00 for the Souper Bowl of Caring after worship on Feb 7. Thank you all for your generous donations. The money raised will be sent to Bread and Roses in Lawrence.

#### Pancake Supper

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the youth at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Bingo Fundraiser. Special thanks to Chris and Sue Lambe for running Bingo. A good time was had by all.



### **Fourth Annual Trivia/Silent Auction on Saturday, February 27!**

Trivia question: What event provides fun, multi-generational fellowship, delicious food, and all types of great items to bid on?

Answer: Trivia/Silent Auction!

**Our 4th Annual Trivia/Silent Auction is almost here!** Get your team together! Jason Cotting will be our trivia master.

We will be serving hors d'oeuvres, sandwiches, desserts, and beverages. Join the bidding for wonderful items that were generously donated....from artwork, to Red Sox tickets, to vacation get-aways, etc., etc!!!

Questions? Call Dotty Whittier at 781-635-6225 or the church office @ 781-334-3050.

### **News From Around the Parish**

We extend our love and sympathy to Dom and Lauren (Gerbick) Donadio upon the recent death of Dom's mother, Mary Donadio of Dedham. Her funeral was on Saturday, February 13.

### Youth Group

Sunday, February 21 6-7:30 Middle School and High School Youth will meet downstairs in the kitchen  
Sunday, February 27 6-7:30 pm Youth group meeting for 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

### City Reach Overnight – March 4-5

Our youth will be in Boston in early March for an opportunity to learn about homelessness in Boston and offer their assistance distributing food and clothing to those in need.

We will meet with other Giv2 youth at Our Lady of Assumption Church in Lynnfield for dinner together and to organize donations.

We will be holding a church wide collection during the month of February for the following items:

#### Used Clothing (in good condition)

Men's or unisex clothing (in large sizes)  
Nylon jackets and pants, ponchos, rain coats  
Warm coats, sweaters, sweatshirts (hooded)  
Jeans and casual pants  
Waterproof boots, comfortable shoes, and sneakers

#### New Clothing

New white socks and underwear for men

#### Miscellaneous Items

Backpacks, tote bags, fanny packs, etc.  
Sleeping bags, blankets (clean & in good condition)  
Travel-size toiletries, chapstick, tooth brushes, etc.

### Aging in Place

Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>  
at 11:30am, (after church service) in Richards Hall

An Informational Hour on "Aging in Place"  
Hosted by Judy Johnson, Penny McKenzie, Debbie Miller & Patti Nardone of RE/MAX Leading Edge

Experts will speak about how to make your home a comfortable and safe place to live, fire safety, legal information and reverse mortgages.

All are welcome to come and listen to this useful information.  
Sandwiches, salads, dessert & coffee will be served.

## Trust in the Promise Stewardship Campaign

Our annual Stewardship Campaign begins on February 21 and ends on March 13. Stewardship packets will be available in the Library on Sunday, February 21. Packets not distributed on 2/21/16, will be mailed.

Our Stewardship theme this year is "Trust in the Promise." God promises a future of hope! What are your hopes and dreams for Centre Church? Please keep those visions in mind as you determine your pledge, and give as generously as you are able. It would be great if our pledges could reflect an average increase of \$10.00 per week.

Online giving is available. Visit our website, [www.Centre-Church.org](http://www.Centre-Church.org) and click on Online Giving on the bottom left of the home page.

Debbie Cotting for Stewardship Ministries

### Thanks to Our Volunteers

#### Sunday, February 21:

Ushers: Marian Orfeo, Jeff Law and Phil Fisher.  
Lay Reader: Jeff Langill  
Lights Out beginning February 19: John Walsh

#### Sunday, February 28:

Ushers: Annmarie Pendola, Judith Doe, Randy Russell  
Lay Reader: Frank Scott  
Lights Out beginning February 26: Bruce Weaver

To our faithful crew who work each 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month to prepare a meal for Bread and Roses in Lawrence.

To our faithful friends who bake brownies to accompany the Bread and Roses meal.

To our choirs who work tirelessly preparing music for our worship services.

To all the people who donate and deliver altar flowers

## Thank you from Reverend Bailey

Dear Friends:

I am extremely grateful to all of you at Centre Congregational Church for the extremely generous way you bid me farewell on Sunday, January 31st!

I appreciated how you came to the worship service in celebration of our ministry together, wearing red, symbolic of how the Spirit of God has been with us. I am grateful for the beautiful red altar flowers that adorned the altar.

I am grateful to the Adult Choir for their music, especially the song, "For Good," which holds so much meaning for all the ways that God used our time together for the benefit of us all. I appreciated Elizabeth Miller's dance to the song, sharing with us another symbolic dimension to our worship together.

I so cherished the Joyful Noise Choir, and their special words in "Peace Like a River," "Thank you Rev. Bailey!"

I appreciate how the Parish Council leadership worked together to prepare for the day and see that all went well.

I appreciated how Susan Spear, Barbara Langill, and Douglas Hodgkins made the day special in all their preparations and support.

Your gifts to me were so breathtaking! You gave me a very generous parting honorarium and I give my thanks and love to all who contributed toward it. There were also so many nice cards and notes that hold special meaning to me.

I am grateful for the cross collage made by the children and youth of the church.

I am grateful for the beautiful Shutterfly Book reminding me of all of the wonderful times we have had together.

I am grateful for the very special brick, "Red Letter Pastor" that you had made for me and the one, also, for Rev. Kool, which will be placed in the

walkway adjacent to the parking lot. I pray that you all keep your sense of humor and zest for life!!!

I am grateful for the special notes written to me in the memory book which I shall read and reread for many years to come.

I am grateful for the special wall hanging gift and gift card from the amazing Tower Day Staff. It was so great that so many of the Tower Day Staff attended the worship service and reception. That meant so much to me.

I am grateful for the ways that you welcomed my girlfriend, Linda Hey, her sons, and her mother. You made them feel so welcome and special, making them feel like celebrities.

I am grateful for the way you all wore red, celebrating God's presence in our ministry together.

I am grateful for the wonderful reception following the worship service, for the special greetings shared, for the many people who attended from Billerica, MA and Jamaica Plain, MA, where my ministry was shared before coming to Lynnfield.

It has been my privilege to be with you as pastor, teacher, and friend.

Thanks for it all! It was everything and much more than I could have ever imagined!

The leadership of Centre Church was always very supportive of me in every way, loving, caring, and strong.

I pray God's blessing upon you all. I pray God's blessing upon Rev. Estelle Margarones, as your Interim Pastor.

God brought us together for a purpose and it was for good!

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

## *Our Opportunities*

<b>Sun. Feb. 21</b>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday In Lent</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>  6:00 pm	<b>Morning Worship - Sanctuary</b> Nursery (up through age 3) Godly Play – making muffins Breakfast Club – Gr. 5-12 Youth Group - Downstairs
Mon. Feb. 22	7:30 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen– Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Feb. 23	12:30 pm	Get-Together Wheel - Fireside
Wed. Feb. 24	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thurs. Feb. 25	6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Weight Watchers – Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Feb. 26	10:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sat. Feb. 27	6:30 pm	Trivia Night/Silent Auction - RH
<b>Sun. Feb. 28</b>  <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday In Lent</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>  6:00 pm	<b>Morning Worship - Sanctuary</b> Nursery & Godly Play Breakfast Club Youth Group - Downstairs
Mon. Feb. 29	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 Alanon/Alateen– Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Mar. 2	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thurs. Mar. 3	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Mar. 4	10:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
<b>Sun. Mar. 6</b>  <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Lent</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion - Sanctuary</b> Nursery (up through age 5)

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bruce Gist, Paula Fowlie (Carmine and Phyllis Ciampa’s daughter), Annabel Aldrich, Helen Butcher, Marguerite Burns, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Bob Hanson, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard, and Bob Shorey.

We remember in our prayers Jamie Stone in Kuwait and Johnathan McCarthy deployed with the Marines.

**The next *Tower Notes* will be on February 29.**

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